

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 04379 122243Z
ACTION SS-25

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O 122219Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1524
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEGUCIGALPA 4379

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY FROM CHARGE

EO 11652 XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT, NU, HO
SUBJECT: CENTRAL AMERICAN MEDIATION INITIATIVE

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 4374, (B) STATE 229639

1. IN ORDER TO SUPPORT COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR'S EFFORTS
(REPORTED REF A), CHARGE AND POLITICAL OFFICER MET BRIEFLY
AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 12 WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER HERNANDEZ.
HE INFORMED US OF NICARAGUAN BOMBING OF COSTA RICA AND
SAID LATTER IS DROPPING ITS MEDIATION EFFORTS IN FAVOR
VENEZUELAN REQUEST FOR OAS MEETING. HERNANDEZ WAS
ABOUT TO CLOSET HIMSELF WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PALMA.

2. I SAID THAT PURPOSE OF CALL HAD BEEN TO REITERATE
SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH USG VIEWS NICARAGUAN DEVELOPMENTS

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SECRET

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 04379 122243Z

AND ASK, PER REF B, QUOTE HOW DOES GOH VIEW THREAT TO
HONDURAS ARISING FROM SANDINISTA ESCALATION? END QUOTE.
I SAID THAT USG IS ANXIOUS FOR HONDURAN VIEWS BECAUSE WE WISH
TO SUPPORT CENTRAL AMERICAN EFFORTS, AND NOT GET AHEAD
OF THEM. USG WANTS TO BASE ITS ACTIONS ON REGIONAL VIEWS.
HOWEVER, USG DID NOT KNOW WHAT HONDURAS' VIEWS WERE.
FOR EXAMPLE, WE WERE SURPRISED THAT HONDURAS HAD NOT

NAMED EMISSARY AS PROPOSED BY COSTA RICA FOR CONVERSATION
WITH NICARAGUA.

3. HERNANDEZ TOOK CAREFUL NOTES AND SAID THAT POSITION
REMAINED THAT GIVEN IN A SPEECH BY PRESIDENT PAZ, THAT
HONDURAS WOULD NOT ALLOW THE USE OF ITS TERRITORY AGAINST
NICARAGUA. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT CENTRAL AMERICAN SECURITY
IS AT STAKE. HERNANDEZ AGREED TO PROVIDE GOH VIEW OF
SITUATION (HOPEFULLY ON SEPTEMBER 13 WHEN WE ARE TO MEET
AGAIN).

4. COMMENT: WHILE NICARAGUAN SITUATION IS OUTPACING OUR
INSTRUCTIONS, WE DID WANT TO INJECT SENSE OF URGENCY INTO
GOH SEEMING IMPASSIVENESS. GOH LEADERS ARE
APPARENTLY UNABLE TO ACT WITHOUT APPROVAL OF 30 MEMBER
ARMED FORCES SUPERIOR COUNCIL WHICH IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN WITHOUT
ITS CONVOCAION. IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT MUCH ACTION CAN BE
EXPECTED FROM GOH QUARTERS.
RONDON

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